

The church is a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship. We are continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus, the Son of God.

We are called to serve and witness in our local churches and to the communities we live in.

When we do this we are sharing Christ's love and the good news of salvation.

Church Board members, like other church officers, are servants of God called to share in and support the activities of the church. God promises to supply you with resources for ministry.

These include scripture, an understanding of God's character, spiritual power and spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit.

Planning

Four key questions assist with planning:

- What is our local church mission? How does it support the broader mission of the church in the context of the three angels messages? Who are we trying to reach?
- What was accomplished in the last year? (Last ten years?) Assess goals and results, membership, attendance and giving. Did the church reach the community?
- What do we want to accomplish in the next year? Write objectives that are specific with a time frame. State briefly how the objective is to be accomplished (using a verb) and who is responsible. Also indicate how the objective will be measured.
- How will we do it? Develop a yearly calendar that identifies an event or service for each month, this would incorporate and consider the plans of various departments. Assign each activity to a relevant department and establish a budget for each project. It is important that the board is responsible for planning and budgeting to ensure that adequate resources are allocated and voted.

For resources and information on training, log into the members site at discipleship.adventistchurch.com or contact your local conference personal ministries director.



THE MINISTRY OF THE Church Board

Have you been asked to serve your local church as a member of the church board? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and are wondering what a church board is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand the role of the church board within your local church.

The Role of the Church Board

The church board is responsible for:

- setting the spiritual tone of the church
- an evangelism focus
- encouraging and nurturing department leaders through prayer, sharing and relationships
- identifying priorities by consulting with church membership
- planning and assigning tasks for events or services
- evaluating the needs of the local community
- overseeing finances
- caring for church property
- reporting with a focus on fulfilling the Gospel Commission

The role of the Church Board is primarily spiritual. The work of the board is best done in a relational, prayerful and sharing atmosphere. The task of the Church Board is to foster the spiritual life of the church through the gifts exercised by the local leadership. The agenda should reflect a visionary approach with maintenance or house keeping issues kept to a minimum at the end of the agenda.

Board Members

Board members are usually made up of leaders holding key positions in the church. This may include elders, deacons and deaconesses, the treasurer, clerk, departmental leaders, Pathfinder Club director and communication secretary. Additional members may be elected from the church membership if desired.

Responsible to

Cooperate with the pastor and other church department leaders.

Time Commitment

- A meeting once per month
- 3-4 hours gathering information, praying and reflecting on the future of the church.



Term of Office

One year and depending upon the church's structure, possibly longer. It is helpful if some members of the board are reappointed to ensure that long term goals are reached.

Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in unique ways. The following gifts are valuable when considering the choice of members for the church board.

- **Leadership:** To set goals that support the mission of the church, and to communicate them in a way that empowers church membership to work together to accomplish them.
- **Knowledge:** For researching, gathering and analysing information when planning.
- **Wisdom:** To reflect on and assess ideas that are considered with prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- **Faith:** That can uplift members, withstand challenges and show confidence in God's leading.